

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner Interview

On July 9, 2007, Applicants' representative, Rachel Mejdrich, discussed with Examiner Barnhart that the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated June 27, 2007, did not address all of the pending claims. Examiner Barnhart indicated that a second restriction requirement, which replaces the first restriction requirement, would be sent.

Election

Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-6).

Discussion of the Restriction Requirement

According to the Office, Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because the groups lack the same or corresponding special technical feature. Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is improper for the reasons set forth herein and, therefore, request withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

The claims of Group I are directed to a process for differentiating a stem cell into a cell which expresses surfactant protein C (SPC). Similarly, the claim of Group VI is directed to a process for differentiating a stem cell into a cell which expresses SPC.

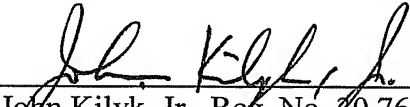
Accordingly, there is sufficient similarity between the claims of Groups I and VI to allow for the search and examination of the subject matter of at least claims 1-6 and 21 at the same time without a serious burden being placed on the Examiner. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement, and respectfully submit that the claims of at least Groups I and VI should be examined together.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the

prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



John Kilyk, Jr., Reg. No. 30,763
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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